

REMARKS

With the present amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9 and 10, and have presented new dependent claims 16 and 17. Accordingly, claims 1 - 17, as amended, are now presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge a telephone interview with Examiner Mylinh Tran on November 6, 2003 regarding the Official Action mailed July 15, 2003. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for her helpful suggestions during this interview. The Examiner agreed that the present invention is distinguishable over the cited prior art and suggested appropriate clarifying claim amendments.

During the interview, Applicants demonstrated basic and fundamental features of the invention not present in the cited prior art. The Examiner suggested that clarifying amendments to the claims would serve to more clearly distinguish these patentable features. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9 and 10 have been amended to more clearly describe the process of splitting a display window by dragging a mouse from a begin point to an end point, with the line between the begin and end points corresponding to an edge of the new display window. The claim amendments are fully supported by the specification, wherein the dragging of a mouse is used to locate a begin point and an end point, which, in turn, are used to define a new splitter bar. See specification, page 8, lines 1 - 15. These claim amendments are in no way intended by Applicants to narrow the amended claims, but are instead solely to provide more clarity.

Turning now to the pending Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,310,631 to Cecco et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,008,809 to Brooks.

With respect to independent claims 1 - 3 and 9, the Examiner considered that Cecco et al. teaches "means for splitting a display window by dragging a mouse from one point on the display to another point on the display" and "means responsive to said mouse dragging wherein said display divides and forms a separate panel [on] at least one side of a line defined by said mouse dragging." Applicants note that Cecco, et al. does not actually "define" a line by dragging a mouse. Instead, a "grab handle 15" of an already existing display window border is selected "when the user clicks and holds the mouse button with the cursor over one of the grab handles." As the user then moves the cursor by dragging the mouse, a transparent copy of the window border is moved along the cursor path on the display. When the user releases the mouse button, the transparent copy of the border becomes a new splitter bar, thereby splitting the display window. (See Cecco, et al., column 5, line 32 - column 6, line 9.)

Applicants further note that in reference to Figures 4A and 4B of Cecco, et al., the horizontal dragging of the grab handle of the window border to the position indicated by item 17 of Figure 4A and its subsequent release results in the placement of a new vertical border 18, which results in new display window 20, i.e., the display window 6 has been split by a vertical border 18. (See Cecco, et al., Figures 4A and 4B, column 5, line 32 - column 6, line 9.) During the interview, Applicants explained that dragging a cursor along the same path by a similar mouse movement in reference with the present invention would result in a new horizontal border that would split display window 6 by a horizontal border. The Examiner agreed that the splitting mechanism of present invention is thus patentably distinct from that disclosed by Cecco, et al.

Moreover, Brooks does not provide any teaching whatsoever of the present invention's splitting mechanism.

Thus, the purported combination of Cecco, et al. with Brooks would not disclose the present invention as claimed in independent claims 1 - 3 and 9. Claims 4 - 7, which depend from the independent claim 3, as well as new claims 16 and 17, which depend from claim 1, are also allowable by reason of the above-discussed amendments as well as by reason of the additional features therein which are not shown, taught or suggested in the prior art.

With respect to independent claims 8, 10 and 13 - 15, the Examiner considered that Cecco, et al. "teaches receiving a set of coordinates defining a line transecting two or more panes of the plurality of panes and dividing each of the two or more panes each into two additional panes, each of the additional panes having a segment of the transecting line as a common edge." Applicants respectfully disagree.

The reference to Cecco, et al. cited by the Examiner actually describes "the change in a cursor once the cursor is moved over a grab handle in response to the movement of a mouse ...". (See Cecco, et al., column 5, lines 2-4.) At no point does Cecco, et al. actually teach receiving a set of coordinates which denote a transcribing line for dividing panes. The points illustrated in Figure 3 of Cecco, et al., items 13, 14, 15 and 16, are in fact the grab handles of the pane borders. These points may be selected with a mouse, and a transparent copy of the pane border may then be dragged to new position. When the grab handle is then released, the transparent copy of the pane border at the new position then becomes a new pane border, thereby splitting the pane. The location of the new pane border thus created by the teaching of Cecco, et al. is thus independent of the point at which the grab handle is selected. This location depends only on the final point at which the grab handle is released. Therefore, Cecco, et al. does not provide any teaching wherein two points are provided to describe a line

for dividing panes. Moreover, any purported combination of *Brooks* with *Cecco, et al.* does not provide this missing teaching.

By specifying actual coordinates defining the line transecting two or more panes, independent claims 8, 10 and 13 - 15, and thus also claims 11 - 12, which depend from claim 10, are distinguished from *Cecco, et al.*, as well as over any combination of *Cecco, et al.* and *Brooks*. These claim rejections having been traversed, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected claims 6 - 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over *Cecco, et al.* in view of *Brooks* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,007 to *Leibling*. Applicant repeats the above arguments with respect to *Cecco, et al.*'s differences from the present invention as claimed in independent claim 3, above, and notes that neither *Brooks* nor *Leibling* provides the present invention's splitting mechanism, which is also missing from *Cecco, et al.* Rejection of claims 6 and 7 should therefore also be withdrawn.

In addition, claims 16 - 17, which depend from claim 1, have been added and provide other features of the Applicants' invention that distinguish over the prior art. In particular, in claim 16 the edge of the new separate display window is oriented horizontally, while it is oriented vertically in claim 17. These features are supported by the specification at page 8, lines 5 - 15.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney

at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Perry M. Fonseca  
Perry M. Fonseca  
Registration No.: 50,975  
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP  
600 South Avenue West  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 654-5000  
Attorney for Applicants

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